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*Suspicious case on the British brig Estella.*

HABANA, CUBA, *August 3, 1897.*

SIR: I boarded the British brig *Estella*, lying at the Tallapiedra Wharf, this morning at 7 a. m., to inspect vessel and crew before giving the bill of health, the vessel being ready to sail for Pascagoula, Miss., via Ship Island. I found the mate sick with a suspicious fever and advised the master to send him to the hospital. This will be done, and vessel will not sail until to-morrow, Wednesday, August 4.

Your attention is respectfully called to the method in vogue in giving bills of health to vessels.

I have refused to inspect a vessel and crew the day before departure, being careful not to delay the vessel, and I have visited more than one vessel before 6 a. m. Had I inspected this vessel yesterday afternoon, I would have issued a bill of health not in accordance with the facts of the case, as the mate was taken sick at 8 p. m. last night.

Very respectfully,

W. F. BRUNNER,  
*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Sanitary report from Habana for July, 1897.*

HABANA, CUBA, *August 4, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Service at this port for the month of July, 1897, with a statement of the sanitary conditions of the city of Habana, together with tables of statistics, of harbor work, of the prevalence of infectious and contagious diseases, and of mortality from the principal diseases. There is no material change in the sanitary conditions of the city, as there are practically no attempts being made to improve the bad sanitary conditons, which have existed for many years. The weather has not been extremely warm, which can be accounted for by the heavy rainfall during the month.

I have noticed that there is some improvement in the collection of garbage and offal. Formerly I noticed that dead animals, dogs and cats, would remain decomposing in the streets for days before being removed.

The work of removing waste matter is performed in the early hours of the morning, the material being collected and carried away in open carts before 7 a. m., but the dumping places are frequently in close proximity to the city. The sewers have been frequently flushed by the rains, and some feeble attempts have been made to deodorize the catch-basins. While the city government has provided at convenient places public urinals, and in some instances water-closets, the streets and pavements reek with human excreta, both solid and liquid matter being scattered indiscriminately by a careless and ignorant population.

It is becoming evident that the numerous deaths caused by intestinal diseases are a result of improper food, the meats being poor in quality, or at least those used by the masses. An inspection of two of the principal markets developed the fact that the meats exposed for sale were not protected from the filth floating in the atmosphere, the quality

in nearly every instance being bad, and it is doubtful if all of it would not be condemned in any city in the United States.

The supply of chickens, eggs, etc., is now being brought to this city from the United States by the steamers from New York and New Orleans.

The Morgan Line steamship brought to this city 10,000 live chickens week before last. These statements are made to show that the food supply here is now dependent in a great measure on importation. The children of the masses are anæmic, and are showing the want of proper nourishment, and this condition of affairs is increasing daily.

*Yellow fever.*—This disease caused 211 deaths during the month of July, according to the statistics compiled from the reports of the two cemeteries, Colon and Baptist, and these figures are approximately correct so far as the records are concerned, but when it is considered that there were 49 deaths from pernicious fever the deaths from yellow fever will be augmented. I have not yet been able to obtain a definition of pernicious fever, but from a description of the disease and a slight personal observation, it is difficult to differentiate it from yellow fever.

The term borras fever does not appear in the mortuary record for this month.

Yellow fever has decreased in the number of cases at the military hospitals, as the following figures from the Alphonso XIII, the largest hospital in the Island of Cuba, will prove: Number of cases of yellow fever June 30, 191; number of cases of yellow fever July 31, 143. It may be that much material has been exhausted and this may account for the diminution in the number of cases.

There are two large military hospitals in the town of Regla, having approximately about 2,500 patients, and the figures contained in this report do not include these hospitals. There are now 8 vessels of the Spanish navy lying in this harbor, and 5 of that number are lying either at the docks of the navy yard or moored in the bay opposite to the Tallapiedra Wharf. As a sequel yellow fever has developed among the crews of these vessels; not many cases are reported, but for the first time, since I assumed temporary charge here, has a case occurred on board of any of these vessels.

The number of deaths from yellow fever occurring among the civilians is but 6. This is from the cemetery reports.

*Smallpox.*—But 4 deaths from this disease have taken place, all of them occurring in the city proper. The Alphonso XIII Hospital had not a single case on July 31, and I would here state the reports so kindly sent to this office daily by Dr. Merino, chief medical officer of the Alphonso XIII, are reliable, and full information can be obtained through him on all matters under his control.

The hospital itself is always open to my inspection. Smallpox is decreasing rapidly, and I would estimate the number of cases in the city and military hospitals to be less than 12. I have observed that many persons applying for certificates at this office, in order that they may go to the United States, show good marks of successful vaccination. The children brought to the office are almost invariably protected by vaccination against smallpox. \* \* \*

The following table will show the number of vessels inspected, the class, nationality, number of passengers, and number of persons in crews. The heavy rains and hot sun make this work onerous and at times uncomfortable, and the work could only be performed, as desired by

the Service, with the use of the naphtha launch placed here in September, 1896 :

Class.	Nationality.			Total.
	American.	English.	Spanish.	
Steamships.....	24	3	11	38
Barks.....	1		6	7
Schooners.....	6	2		8
Total.....	31	5	17	53

Number of passengers..... 710  
 Number in crews..... 2,060

Total persons..... 2,760

Vessels going to Tallapiedra Wharf with unacclimated crews during this time of the year will of a certainty develop sickness. There are now 3 British and 1 American vessel at this wharf. On two of the British vessels sickness has appeared. One of them, the brig *Estella*, was at this wharf in May and had 1 case of yellow fever after leaving this port. These vessels are now carrying crews of blacks, but as these negroes are from Nova Scotia they have not proved to be immune and several of them are now sick on the vessels at this wharf.

I am forced to say that to send vessels to this wharf during the summer months appears to be a cruelty. A nonimmune may escape an attack of yellow fever after sleeping from two to four weeks at this wharf, but I believe that nine out of ten men would suffer from an attack of yellow fever, or from a type of malarial fever more dangerous than yellow fever, within the time mentioned, and certainly the experience of the last six weeks will demonstrate the correctness of this statement.

The following table will give the mortality of this city for the month of July, 1897. Like the other figures in regard to the prevalence of disease, they are approximately correct. Only the principal causes of death are enumerated :

Yellow fever, military hospitals, 205; city, 6; total, 211. Smallpox, 4; enteric fever, 62; pernicious fever, 49; paludal fever, 13; bilious fever, 1; dysentery, 71; enteritis, 100; diphtheria, 3; measles, 1; pneumonia, 19; glanders, 3; tuberculosis, 137. Deaths from all causes, 1,193. Annual rate per 1,000, 66.58.

Very respectfully,

W. F. BRUNNER,  
*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Sanitary report from Habana.*

HABANA, CUBA, August 7, 1897.

SIR: The following report for the week ended Thursday, August 5, 1897, is respectfully submitted :

It is now about the middle of the rainy season and, while the thermometer rarely reaches 90° F., the heat during the middle of the day is at times very oppressive. The rainfall occurs almost daily for a few hours, the precipitation being very slight. Occasionally the rain continues for half a day and there is rainfall of several inches. All the atmospheric conditions now favor the spread of yellow fever, and yet, from reports received, that disease has not increased, but apparently it has decreased. Being impressed with the opinion that yellow fever can not decline at this season of the year, with abundant material on